Reclaimed Water Saves 25 Million Gallons This Summer

From June 1st to July 15th, our community has saved about 25 million gallons a day of drinking water by using reclaimed water to irrigate golf courses, parks, street medians and school yards. "This summer, we expect to deliver nearly 2 billion gallons of reclaimed water," says Karen Dotson who manages the Reclaimed System. Wastewater that has been treated to meet stringent irrigation standards, reclaimed water is delivered to about 400 customers through its own 100+ mile long distribution system.

Tucson Water's Reclaimed Water system was one of the first in the U.S. and remains one of the leaders. In 2000, City voters approved $32 million dollars in bonds to expand the reclaimed system and add 26 miles of new mains to reach additional customers. For a list of the major facilities now using reclaimed water, visit our website.

Visit the Tucson Water Web Site at http://www.cityoftucson.org/water

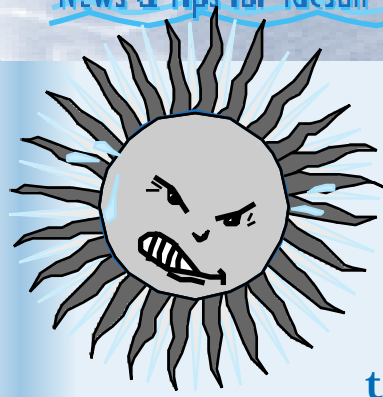
The Water Connection **is produced by Tucson Water. To receive a copy, or to receive this information in Spanish, call 791-4331 or mail your request to: Customer Information, P.O. Box 27210, Tucson, AZ 85726-7210.**

City of Tucson TTY number: 791-2639

Si usted desea este documento escrito en español, por favor, llame al 791-4331.

Your WATER Connection

News & Tips for Tucson Water Customers



Mother Nature has surprised Tucson this year, giving us a tiny fraction of our normal rainfall, record high temperatures, and serious wildfires in the mountains and the desert. As a result, Tucson Water has broken a daily water delivery record, pumping more in one day than ever before in its 101-year history.

August 2002 http://www.cityoftucson.org/water/

Water Use Sets New Records

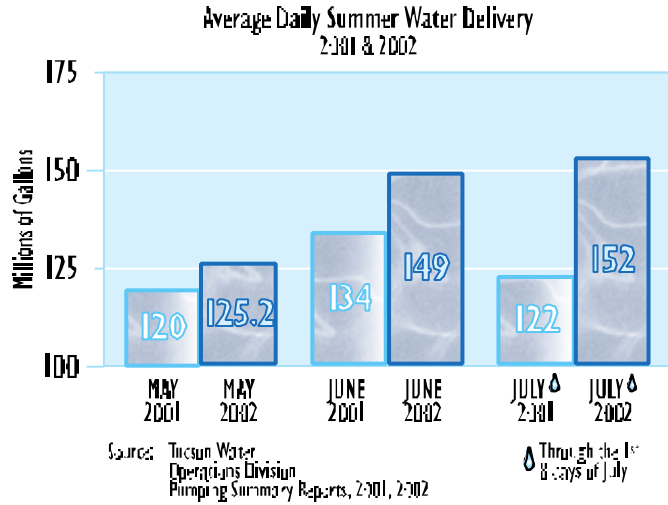
Earlier this summer, Tucson Water delivered more than 150 million gallons of water a day for 18 consecutive days. In the 100+ years of our existence, we had never done that for more than 2 days in a single year.

In the past, this high water demand would have put our community's water supply into near-crisis conditions. There are two reasons that didn't happen in 2002.

1. Clearwater. Tucson's new renewable water resource pumps 25 million gallons of water a day to our community – water that would be difficult to draw from groundwater wells.

2. Conservation. Tucson Water customers' continued commitment to water conservation helped control water use and kept demand from rising even higher.

Fixing any leaky faucets goes a long way in curbing water waste.



Water use was much higher than usual because of:

–100 Days Without Rain

Like much of the western U.S., Tucson experienced a drought during the first 6 months of 2002. Since a large percentage of the water we use here is used outside, no rain means more water for trees, shrubs, and potted plants. Keeping our landscaping alive drove our water use up.

–Soaring Temperatures

Tucson also experienced a warmer than usual spring and summer. That means more water for swamp coolers, more evaporation from swimming pools and water features, even more water consumed to keep us from dehydrating. All this added to our water use.

–Fighting Fires

Federal emergency managers directing the fight against the Bullock Fire, which ravaged the Catalina Mountains in May, sought out Tucson Water to

Continued Inside

On the Water Front

Thanks to you, we made it.

Tucson has never seen six months of drier weather than we experienced in the spring and summer of 2002. No rainfall and high temperatures drove water use in our community to record levels and Tucson Water delivered more water than ever before. Water demand in Tucson rarely exceeds 150 million gallons per day. This summer we delivered more than that on 18 days!

Two or three years ago this would have meant a serious water supply crisis. But that didn't happen, in part because of our new water resource, the Clearwater Renewable Resource Facility, which pumps 25 million gallons of water a day into Tucson. That's additional water that we could not consistently pump from our groundwater well system without further environmental damage. The other key factor in avoiding a water crisis was your long-standing ethic of water conservation. Under the circumstances, you used water very wisely during the drought. Water use could have been much higher, dramatically increasing the challenge to us of meeting water demand.

So, you, our customers, were a critical part of Tucson surviving the drought. Your support of our use of Colorado River water as a renewable water resource and your continued commitment to wise water use made it possible for us to supply all 675,000 customers with the water they needed this summer.

Our use of renewable resources and willingness to conserve water are critical parts of our efforts to protect our environment and quality of life, and to ensure we have a high quality water supply for today and for the future.

David V. Modeer
Director, Tucson Water

Water Use Sets New Records

Continued from Page 2

supply drinking water for hotshot teams and for direct fighting of the fires. We provided about one million gallons of drinking water for the effort.

–Helping Other Water Providers

This summer several small local water utilities asked Tucson Water for temporary help in meeting their customers' water needs. We provided millions of gallons of water to these companies to help them get through problem situations.

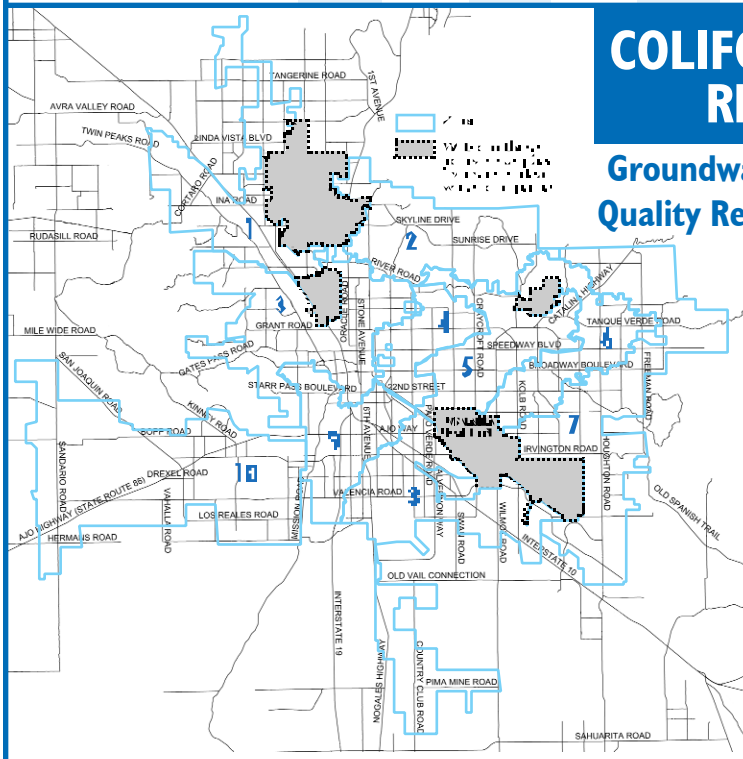
Clearwater Quality Report – July 2002

46*	Sodium (ppm)
263	Mineral Content (ppm)
91*	Hardness (ppm)
8.1	pH (units)
Neg*	Coliform Bacteria
0.98*	Chlorine level average (ppm)
87.4	Temp (deg F)

** Values for June*

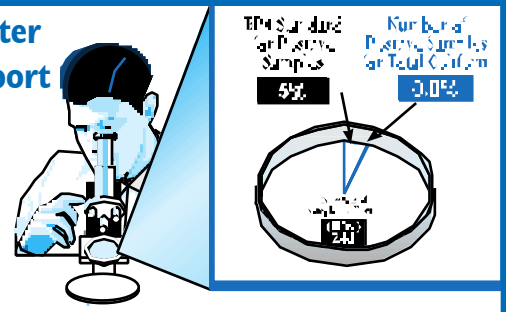
GROUNDWATER QUALITY REPORT - May 2002

	Water Quality Zone	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	System Wide
Sodium (ppm)	Average	46	43	50	39	39	34	31	42	43	41	41
	Range	37-52	40-45	27-63	29-52	27-44	30-43	24-43	40-43	38-49	40-42	24-63
Mineral Content (ppm)	Average	388	276	331	244	250	243	229	310	248	219	269
	Range	177-534	246-312	195-488	186-362	171-287	200-292	172-296	217-440	218-326	216-223	171-534
Hardness (ppm)	Average	215	114	154	103	102	110	112	155	85	76	118
	Range	157-300	89-131	75-234	82-149	70-123	97-127	98-132	81-266	72-104	75-78	70-300
pH (units)	Average	7.5	7.8	7.9	7.9	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.9	7.7	7.8
	Range	7.3-8.1	7.1-8.1	7.5-8.1	7.3-8.2	7.0-8.1	7.1-8.1	7.1-8.0	7.4-8.0	7.4-8.1	7.2-7.9	7.0-8.2
Temperature (deg F)	Average	82	84	82	85	82	81	82	84	86	85	83
	Range	76-87	77-87	75-91	78-90	74-90	72-85	79-87	79-88	82-91	82-87	72-91

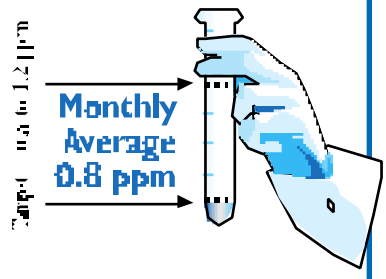


COLIFORM BACTERIA TESTING RESULTS - May 2002

Groundwater Quality Report



Chlorine Level Average



"PPM" means one part per million; 1 ppm = 1 teaspoon in 1,320 gallons

To give you a more accurate measurement of the water quality in your neighborhood, the Tucson Water service area has been divided into 10 zones based on differences in water pressure and water quality. For a detailed description of the zone boundaries, call 791-4331.